

Glenn Research Center, Environment Program Manual

Chapter 7 - POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS POLICY

NOTE: The current version of this Chapter is maintained and approved by the Environmental Management Office (EMO). The revision date for this chapter is April 2002. If you are referencing paper copies, please verify that it is the most current version before use. The current version is maintained on the Glenn Research Center intranet at <http://osat-ext.grc.nasa.gov/emo/pub/epm/epm-contents.pdf>. Approved by: EMO Chief, Michael Blotzer {<mailto:Michael.J.Blotzer@grc.nasa.gov>}.

PURPOSE

This chapter establishes policies pertaining to the handling and disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) at GRC. This chapter conforms to the GRC EMS as defined in Environmental Programs Manual [Chapter 1](#). This chapter supports GRC Environmental Policy, which promotes pollution prevention, regulatory compliance, and continuous improvement.

Following the guidelines in this chapter will help achieve some of the GRC environmental objectives and targets such as the reduction of spills and releases, the identification and implementation of pollution prevention activities, and the reduction of solid waste generation. Achievement of these targets can be tracked through the following record(s) Emergency Incident Reports, P2 Committee & Plan Results, number of regulatory non-compliances found, and the number of reduction, reuse, or recycling opportunities identified.

APPLICABILITY

The guidance provided in this chapter is applicable to GRC employees and contractors at all levels who are in any way involved in the handling, storage, transportation, and/or disposal of PCB's.

DEFINITIONS

Annual document log

A record of waste handling at a facility.

Quarterly inspection

A visual inspection for leaks from PCB transformers conducted once every three months.

PCB transformer (PCB item)

A transformer with a PCB concentration above 500 ppm.

PCB contaminated transformer (PCB item)

A transformer with a PCB concentration between 50 and 500 ppm.

PCB article

Any manufactured article, other than a PCB container, that contains PCB's and PCB items.

PCB article container

A device containing PCB's or PCB articles whose surfaces have not been in direct contact with PCB's (example: a drum containing a non-leaking capacitor).

PCB container

A device containing PCB's or PCB articles whose surfaces have been in direct contact with PCB's (example: a drum containing a leaking capacitor).

PCB item

A PCB article, PCB container, PCB article container or PCB equipment container that contains PCB's.

PCB equipment

A manufactured item other than a PCB container, PCB article container, or which contains, a PCB Article (example: fluorescent light ballast).

BACKGROUND

GRC has 13 electrical substations. Transformers are also spread out over a variety of locations throughout the lab (see Table III of the GRC 2001 SPCC plan.) There are no PCB transformers on site. Nearly all transformers with oil are non-PCB. A small number of PCB-contaminated transformers remain. Light ballasts are removed on an ongoing basis as part of the fluorescent light management plan. These ballasts, capacitors, small transformers, and other possible PCB-contaminated material are stored in Building 136 before shipment. Annual documents can be found in Building 6, Room 129.

POLICY

It is GRC policy to maintain information such as inspection logs, annual document logs, and disposal records in a readily accessible manner and to dispose of PCB articles in compliance with Federal and State regulations.

REQUIREMENTS

- 40 CFR 761 - Polychlorinated Biphenyls Manufacturing, Processing, Distribution in Commerce, and Use Prohibitions
- 40 CFR 112 - Oil Pollution Prevention
- 29 CFR 1910 - Occupational Safety and Health Standards
- 15 USC 2605
- 63 FR 3538-35474 of 6-29-98

PROCEDURES

Facilities & Test Engineering Division (FTED)

- Disposes of PCB transformers, capacitors, and other PCB articles.
- Conducts quarterly inspections of PCB transformers.
- Assists Plum Brook with disposal of PCB items.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Environmental Compliance Team (ECT)

- Writes and maintains PCB annual document log for GRC.
- Conducts internal audits of the GRC PCB program.
- Keeps PCB-related records in a readily accessible location.
- Conducts monthly inspections of the PCB storage area.

Waste Management Team (WMT)

- Assists FTED with disposal of PCB items
- Assists Plum Brook with disposal of PCB items

Plum Brook Station

Manages its own PCB disposal, inspection, and record keeping system independently with technical advice from FTED and ECT. Records of interest include such things as disposal records and annual document logs.

RECORDS

- PCB Annual Document Logs

REFERENCES

40 CFR 761 Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's) manufacturing, processing, distribution in commerce, and use prohibitions.

Office of Safety and Assurance Technologies ([OSAT](#))

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Revision Date: April 2002

PROCEDURES/PROCESS DESCRIPTION

